Dessert
Scons

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Dessert Reiraku

CHAPTER 6

BY ASANO INIO

As summer comes to an end, he returns to his stagnant, mundane life, paralyzed by what he must come to terms with.

After vacating my workplace, I returned to my own house.

At the end of summer, my wife and I began living separately.

Reiraku

DOWNFALL

CHAPTER 6

Asano-Inio

Even though it's been several months, my things are still scattered around, my room is a mess and I've yet to begin any new work...

However, the biggest change was that I couldn't see my cat when I wanted to.

Akari @akari_pikapikari
@fukazawa_kaoru
Fukazawa-sensei, are you doing well? It's been a year since Sayonara Sunset ended… something a little sad happened to me the other day, so I started reading it again. It's my favorite, all right! The sun has been setting earlier and the weather is getting colder, so please take good care of yourself ٩(•∀•)۶

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I'd occasionally yearn for some company, but superficial exchanges on social media were enough for me during those times.

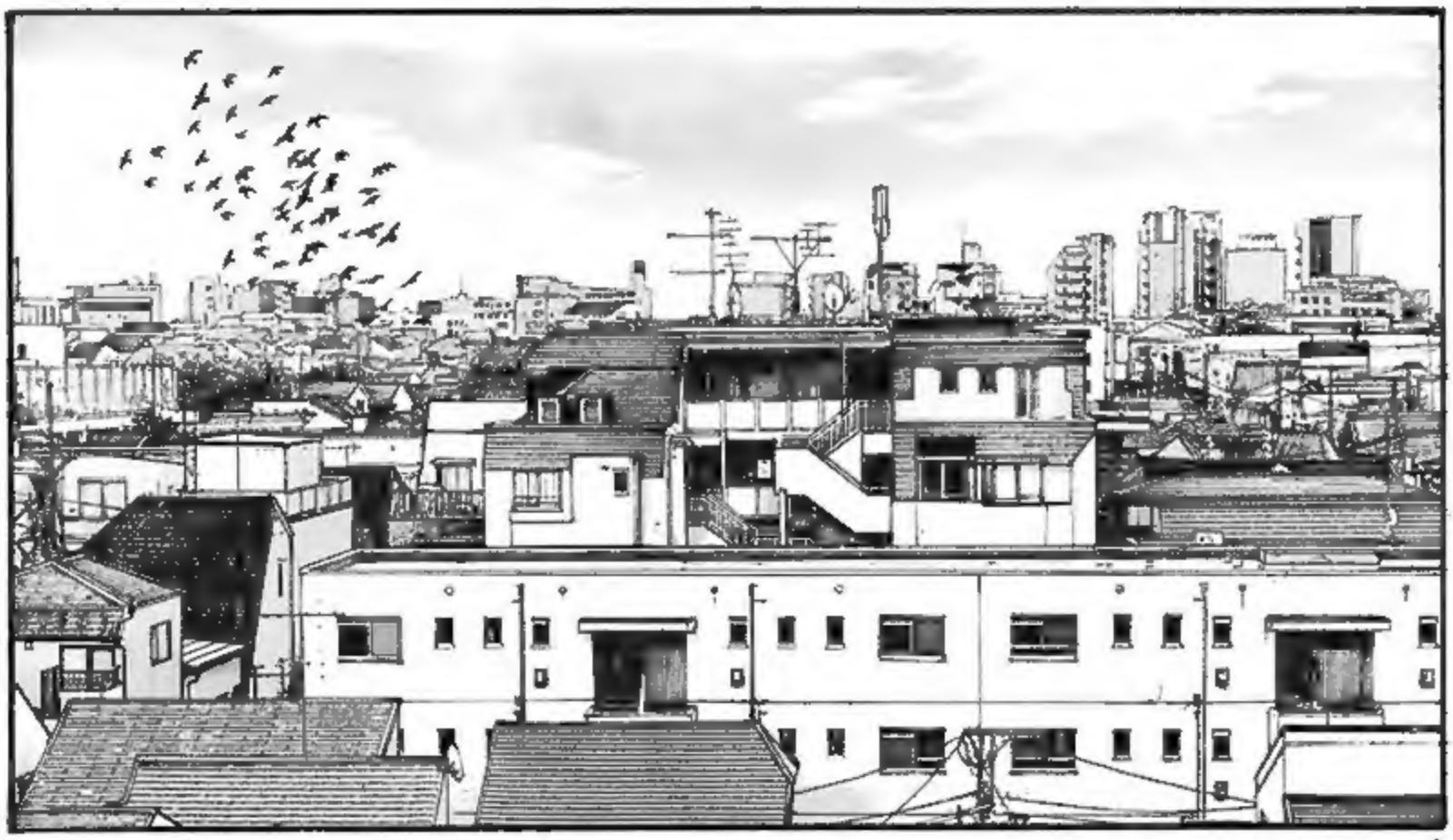
been setting earlier and the weather is getting colder, so please take good care of yourself ٩(•∀•)۶
↓ reply to @akari_pikapikari
Thank you as always! I'll work hard to announce another series soon! Be careful you don't catch a cold either, Akari-chan!
GIF
Reply
q w e y

Fukazawa Kaoru

Mangaka. About to divorce his wife, who is a manga editor.

Machida Nozomi

A manga editor who is the main character's wife. Her divorce is closing in on her.



3

And neither did she. Not even once.

But after we bid our farewells at her hometown station, I never got around to contacting her.

Every now and then, I'd think about "Chifuyu".

T/N: Shogakukan is a Japanese publisher of dictionaries, literature, manga, non-fiction and DVDs.

HEYYY~ FUKAZAWA-KUN!! FUKAZAWA-KUN!!

LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW ARE YOU DOING?

YOU OUGHT TO STOP PLAYING AROUND AND GET BACK TO WORK AGAIN.

YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET A MANGA AWARD NEXT TIME, I SWEAR.

Tomida-chan

The main character's assistant.

WELL...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

AH...

MAKIURA-SAN!!

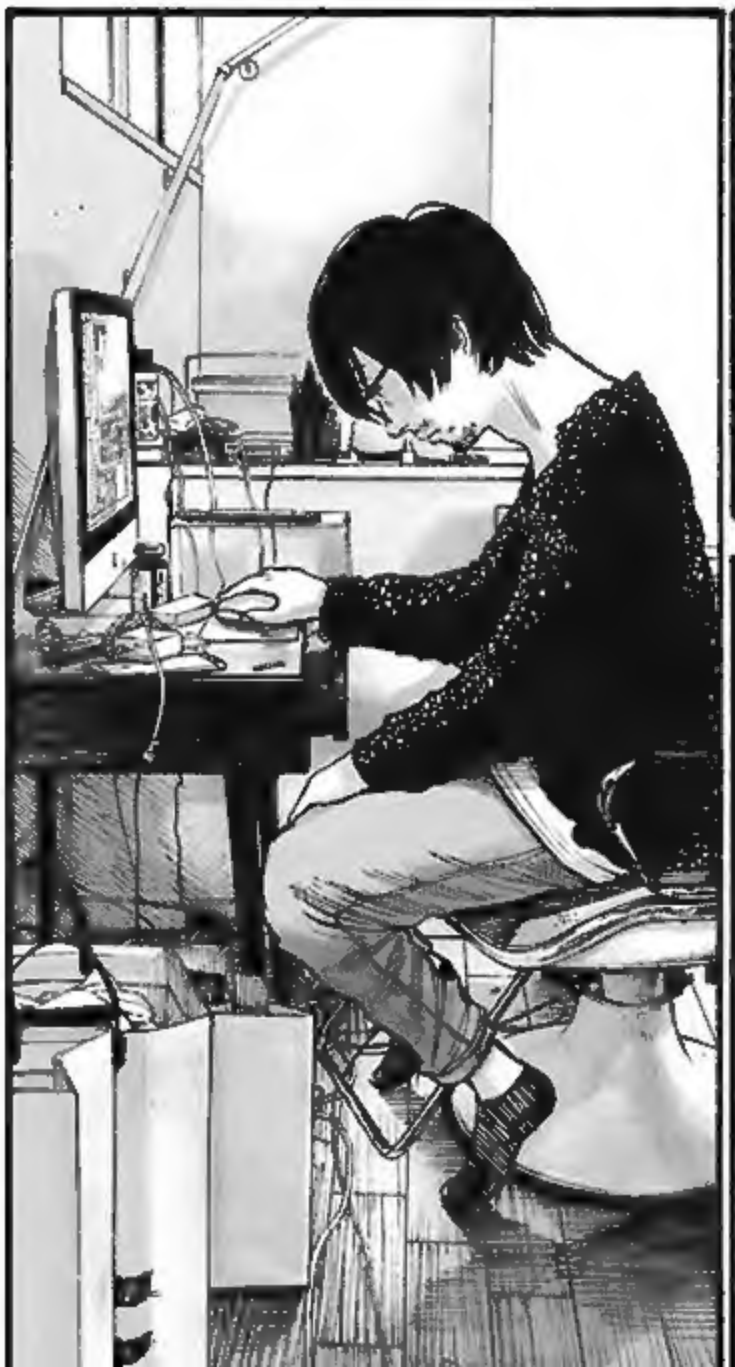
KUSAKARI-SENSEI HAS ARRIVED!!

HUH? NO WAY! I'M A SUPER BIG FAN OF HIS!!

LET'S GO SAY HELLO~!!

Although she'd read my message, I ended up greeting the new year without ever getting a reply.

As the year came to a close, just once did loneliness take hold of me suddenly and vehemently, and I decided to invite Chifuyu out for dinner.



Read 12:59

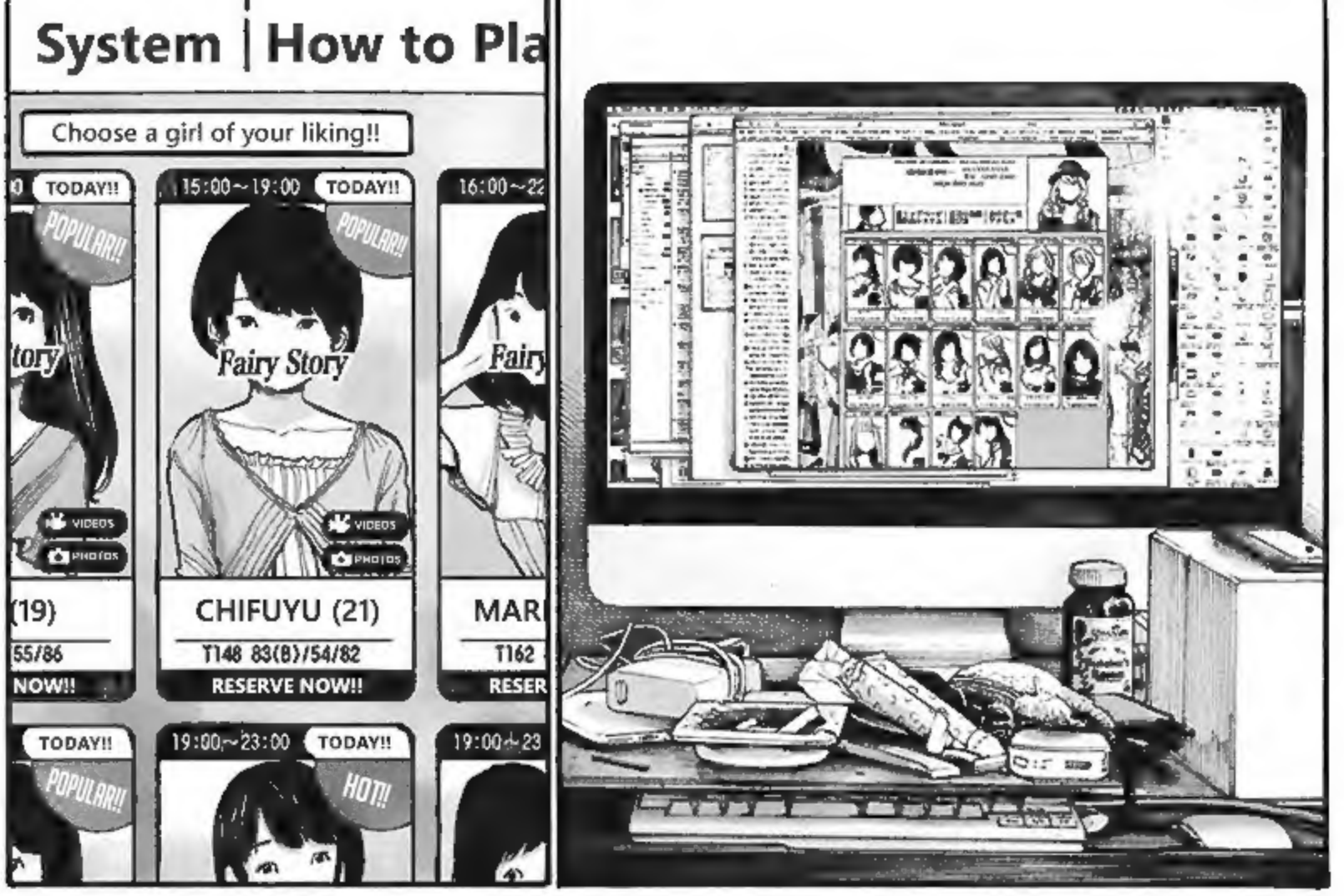
I'm at the ticket gate.

I'm heading there now. 13:02

12/15 (Thu)

Read 20:27

Good evening. If you're free sometime this month or the next, would you like to go out for dinner?



I could've gone over there if I wanted to see her, but that was just too aggravating.

On the shop's schedule, Chifuyu was listed there as if nothing had ever happened.

...Perhaps she's already found herself another wealthy customer willing to spend a fortune on her, and is lavishing him with affection right now.

But not those of a stray. They're like the eyes of a domesticated cat that has experienced the loving care of humans.

Chifuyu's eyes really do resemble those of a cat.

...WELL, I'M SURE NO ONE WOULD MIND IF YOU TOOK A SMALL BREAK, FUKAZAWA-SAN.

NOT YET... BUT I'M TRYING TO GET THAT DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

I'M SORRY.....

I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF...

A SMALL AMOUNT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM, RIGHT? I TAKE IT THE SERIAL-IZATION FOR YOUR NEXT SERIES HAS BEEN DECIDED?

SO I DO FEEL A LITTLE WORRIED IF I DON'T DRAW ANYTHING...

...THERE WON'T BE ANY REPRINTS THIS TIME AROUND...

I slaved away like a lunatic for these past ten years, all to obtain some sort of freedom.

just like I had in the past.

Chifuyu came to Tokyo in pursuit of freedom,

6	28-11-30				¥29,101,[illegible]466
7	28-11-30	Account Transfer	200,000		
8	28-11-30	Card C1			
9	28-12- 2	A C S	34,227	0137-0039	¥29,0[illegible]
10	28-12- 2	A C S	540	Transfer Fee	¥29,0[illegible]
11	28-12- 5	Deposit 2	Shogakukan	201,899	¥29,268,[illegible]
12	28-12-12	Deposit 2	Chiyo E-shop	26,377	¥29,295,0[illegible]
13	28-12-14	Card C1	80,000		¥29,215,004
		1	Murata Publishing	41,602	¥29,256,606

...note these returns are displayed as followed.

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I was able to get a mere year or two of it.

And in exchange for ten years of no freedom.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, TOKUMARU-SAN

...IT'S FUKUZAWA

I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH FOR ALL THIS TIME. .

YOU WILL BE REDIRECTED TO OUR ANSWER NG SERV CES.

PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP

THE PRESSURE OF HAVING TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER SMASH HIT IS REALLY TAKING A TOLL ON MY MENTAL STATE

I CALLED TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY NEW WORK, BUT TO BE HONEST, I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANYTHING DONE

COULD I ASK YOU TO READ ONE OF MY MANUSCRIPTS, AND TELL ME WHETHER I REALLY GOT WHAT IT TAKES OR NOT ?

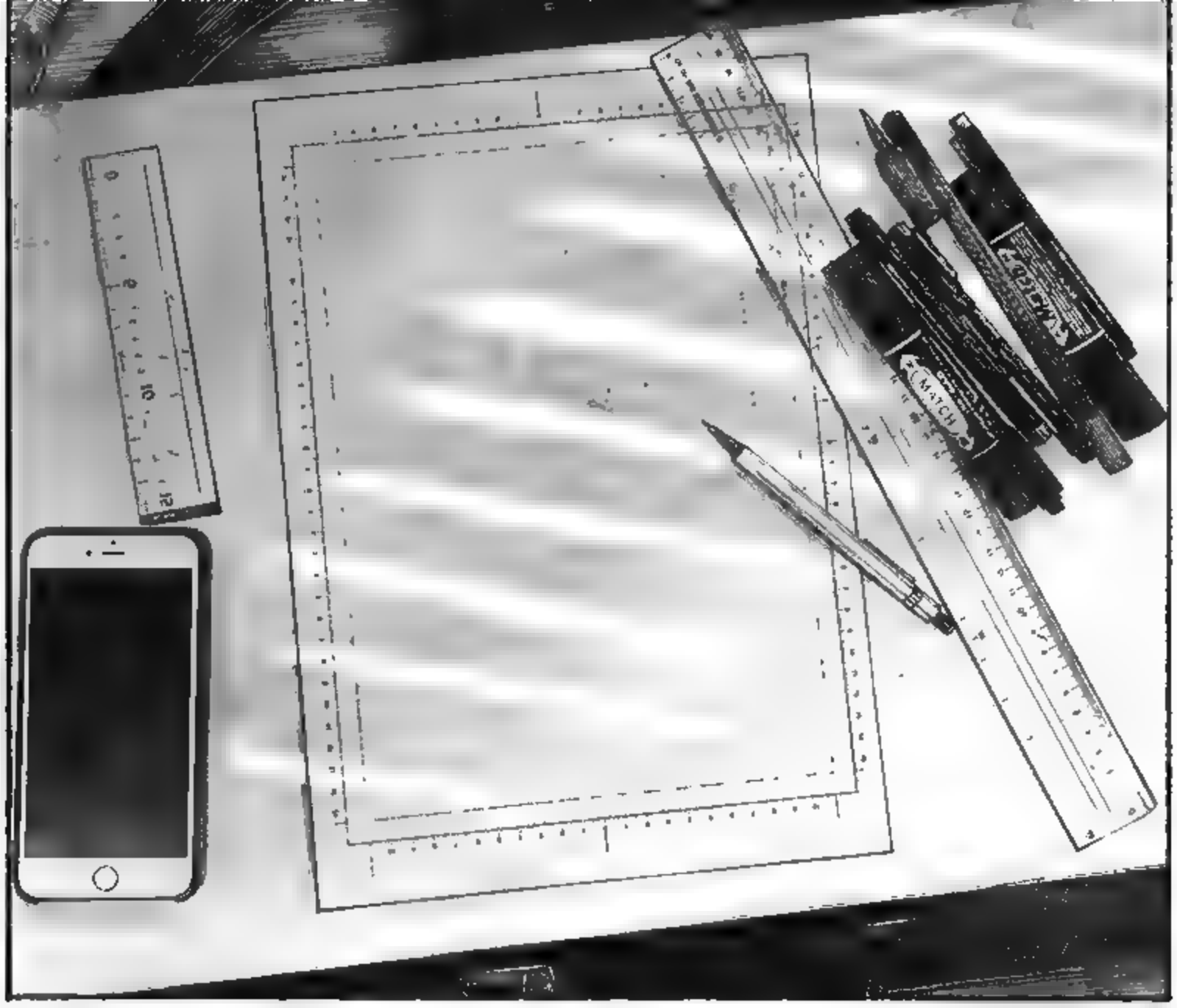
JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS STILL A ROOKIE.

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT TO DRAW WHATEVER I WANT, JUST THIS ONCE?

YOU'RE FREE TO REJECT IT, OF COURSE

LARGE VEHICLES SLOW DOWN

MAXIMUM VEHICLE HEIGHT 3 .



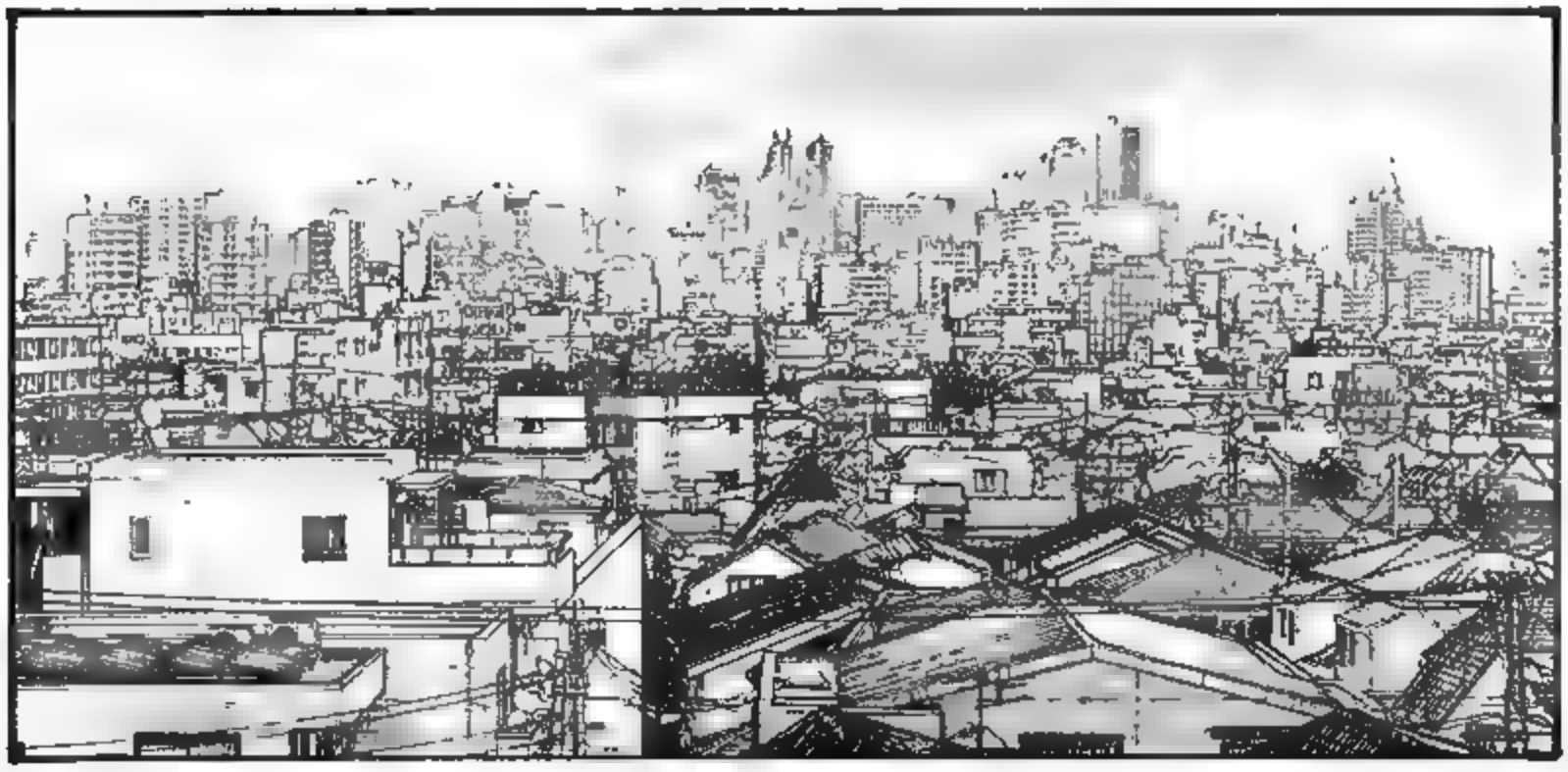
appeared so vast, I could hardly breathe.

The manuscript paper I hadn't faced in such a long time

Were I still a teenager,
I would have naively let
loose upon this ever
expanding blank page.

Were I in my twenties,
I would have vented away
my worries and frustrations of
being a "nobody", finding relief
in unrestrained expression.

But being in my late thirties now, knowing the sensation that comes from being accepted by others and the anguish of expectation...



is a spent body and some savings.

All that is left of me now...

There's not a single thing I want to draw anymore.

I left it all behind within my manga.

My happiness, my sadness, my very humanity.

why I chose to become a mangaka in the first place.

I can't even clearly recall...

Right now, in this moment,

That freedom isn't worth it.

I should have told Chifuyu back then.

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AH...

YEAH...

IT'S INTEREST-ING

..
IT'S WELL MADE.

INCREDIBLE, TOMIDA-CHAN.

YOU'RE TALENTED, ALL RIGHT.

THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT DESIGNED EVERYTHING AND CAME UP WITH THE PLOT

...I JUST FOLLOWED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS

...BUT IT WAS YOU WHO DREW EVERYTHING OUT, RIGHT?

YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE PRIDE IN YOUR WORK

THIS WILL DEFINITELY TURN OUT TO BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU

OH, SORRY DO YOU WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK? I'LL GO GET YOU SOMETHING

YES...

YOU'RE RIGHT .

SAY, FUKAZAWA-SAN...

THAT'S OKAY. ..

IT'S NOT LIKE I WASN'T AT FAULT, EITHER

I'M SORRY FOR LASHING OUT AT YOU .

AND THREATENING TO SUE YOU AFTER I QUIT

... ..

I WAS A LITTLE DEPRESSED BACK THEN

SO PLEASE JUST IGNORE I EVER EXISTED. .

...HM?

I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE DON'T INTIMIDATE ME, OR TRY TO HOLD ME BACK

I'M GOING TO BE 29 THIS YEAR, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU .

...I WOULD BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE IF YOU WENT AROUND THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT SPREADING BAD RUMORS ABOUT ME!!

EVERY-THING IS RIDING ON THIS ONE MANGA!!

I'M BEING SERIOUS!!

pant pant

REALLY .....?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.....?

..I'M GLAD.....

THAT YOU UNDER-STAND .

THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT

I MEAN, IF I WERE TO START SELLING WELL

AND YOU BECAME ENVIOUS OF ME, DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE ANNOYING TO ME...?

YOU NEVER APPROVED OF THE OTHER POPULAR MANGA, SO I WAS JUST WORRIED.

BUT, FUKAZAWA-SAN,

YOU'VE ALWAYS RIDICULED THE MANGA INDUSTRY SAYING THAT MANGA'S DEAD ALREADY

FUKAZAWA-SAN, PLEASE DON'T LOOK DOWN ON MANGA, OKAY?

THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL STORIES OUT THERE...

AND CONTRARY TO YOU, I REALLY DO LOVE MANGA ...!!

...GET OUT.

THE MORE WORTHLESS IT BECOMES TO ME.

THE MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU TALK ABOUT IT,

DON'T PROFESS YOUR LOVE FOR MANGA SO EASILY

Sigh~

OH, JEEZ

ALL RIGHT?

I JUST CAN'T GET THROUGH TO YOU

IF YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TIME TO MOVE YOUR MOUTH,

YOU OUGHT TO MOVE YOUR HAND INSTEAD

ARE YOU DENYING WHAT YOU ARE?

...BUT AREN'T YOU THE SAME, FUKAZAWA-SAN?

THEY'RE ALL SO SELF-CENTERED, DESPITE BEING MERE MANGAKA .....

...I DON'T HATE MANGA. I HATE THE MANGAKA THEM-SELVES.....

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, DO IT WHEN YOU'RE SELLING MORE THAN ME!!

...GIVE ME A *FUCKING* BREAK!!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S HIT ROCK BOTTOM...

FUKAZAWA-SAN...

IS BEING POPULAR THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU.....?

MOVING CENTER

BAM

Sayonara Suntsc+ J
MANUSCRIPT RETURNS

CLATTER

CLATTER
CLATTER

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!!

Tormented by his anger, an urge wells up from deep within. As he comes face-to-face with her, his soul drifts off to places unknown.